

Message

From: Butler, Elizabeth [Butler.Elizabeth@epa.gov]
Sent: 3/8/2016 8:04:18 PM
To: Flanagan, Sarah [Flanagan.Sarah@epa.gov]
Subject: FW: nj.com coverage Re: Invitation for Passaic River Event Tomorrow, March 4 at 11:30 a.m.

FYI – for your reading pleasure.....

From: Doug Sarno [mailto:doug@forumfg.com]
Sent: Monday, March 07, 2016 10:13 PM
To: Ana Baptista <baptista@newschool.edu>
Cc: David Yennior <dyennior@gmail.com>; debbie@nynjbaykeeper.org; Butler, Elizabeth <Butler.Elizabeth@epa.gov>; Yeh, Alice <Yeh.Alice@epa.gov>; Kirk Barrett <kirk.barrett@manhattan.edu>; Peter M Weppler <Peter.M.Weppler@usace.army.mil>; Vaughn, Stephanie <Vaughn.Stephanie@epa.gov>; Lisa Baron <Lisa.A.Baron@usace.army.mil>; Joe Nardone <jsphnardone@yahoo.com>; Harvey Morginstin <harvey.morginstin@gmail.com>; Maribel Jusino-Iturralde <MJusino-Iturralde@jerseyhistory.org>; Arnold Cohen <acohen@hcdnnj.org>; Janine MacGregor <janine.macgregor@dep.nj.gov>; Molly Greenberg <mgreenberg@ironboundcc.org>; Ben Delisle <DelisleB@jcnj.org>; Kluesner, Dave <kluesner.dave@epa.gov>; Jonathon Jaffe <jonathan@jaffecom.com>; Lenny Thomas <lenny22@gmail.com>; Thomas Pietrykoski <tpietrykoski@gmail.com>; Basso, Ray <Basso.Ray@epa.gov>; Naranjo, Eugenia <Naranjo.Eugenia@epa.gov>; Chris Kok <Christopherjkok@gmail.com>; Jay Meegoda <jay.meegoda@njit.edu>; Rini, Sophia <Rini.Sophia@epa.gov>; Santos Jorge <jsantos@newarkcedc.org>; Joseph Della Fave <jdellafave@ironboundcc.org>; Cynthia Mellon <melloncynthia75@gmail.com>; rockypoint@att.net
Subject: Re: nj.com coverage Re: Invitation for Passaic River Event Tomorrow, March 4 at 11:30 a.m.

Hi Folks,

One of the hallmarks of the CAG is that we have created an important place for civil conversation and deep understanding of the issues. All viewpoints are welcome, and we work hard to find common ground but have always respected people's right to arrive at their own conclusions. We are always free to attack the issues with all the passion and energy they deserve, however we work hard not to attack each other. Please let's continue to honor that.

take care,
Doug

Doug Sarno
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doug@forumfg.com

On Mar 7, 2016, at 5:05 PM, Ana Baptista <baptista@newschool.edu> wrote:

Hello David

I'd like to directly respond to your quote in the NJ Spotlight article calling the CAG "Brainwashed"

"I very much resent Ana and Debbie's criticism of Sierra's position," Yennlor wrote in an email. "The EPA worked hard to brainwash the CAG but never answered our objections to the capping."

First I find this highly offensive. Debbie and I are both highly educated women who have chaired this CAG for many years.

We along with many members of the CAG spent many many months digesting the alternatives presented by the EPA - and we did.

We examined the materials and the science independently and together and came to our conclusions. Furthermore, ICC briefed residents, held meetings and convened local community residents that live along the river to gauge their concerns. ICC based their position on accountability to our residents and the facts of the alternatives presented by the EPA.

We've always tried to uphold the working principles of the CAG transparently and fairly. If we disagree ultimately with the final remedy - I hope it's an argument based on substance and not on casting aspersions on our character and intelligence.

I cannot make the meeting on Thursday night because I am teaching my graduate course on Sustainability that evening but I look forward to an open, honest conversation about these differences with the members of the CAG.

Best regards

Ana

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Ana I. Baptista, PhD

Chair Environmental Policy & Sustainability Management Program

Assistant Professor of Professional Practice

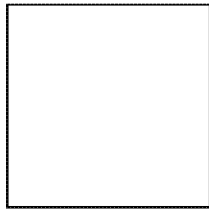
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@ProfAnaBaptista



On Sat, Mar 5, 2016 at 3:12 AM, DAVID YENNOR <dyennor@gmail.com> wrote:

Here is the coverage at [nj.com](http://www.nj.com) including a videotape of Senator Booker's remarks:

http://www.nj.com/essex/index.ssf/2016/03/epa_14b_passaic_river_cleanup_will_be_paid_for_by.html

David Yennor

On Mar 5, 2016, at 3:08 AM, DAVID YENNOR wrote:

From this press release it seems like Gov Christie is taking credit for the EPA's decision.

NJ DEP PRESS RELEASE

**CHRISTIE ADMINISTRATION'S SELECTED REMEDIATION OPTION
FOR
LOWER PASSAIC RIVER IS FINALIZED BY EPA**
*PLAN CALLS FOR DREDGING, CAPPING AND DISPOSAL OF
CONTAMINATED MATERIALS TO OUT-OF-STATE FACILITIES*

(16/P11) TRENTON – The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) today issued its final Record of Decision for the Christie Administration's selected remediation plan for the Lower Passaic River, a major step in the long-awaited cleanup of a contaminated eight-mile section of this vital waterway that was once an economic engine for the state and nation.

DEP Commissioner Bob Martin joined EPA Regional Administrator Judith A. Enck and other local and federal officials for the announcement today in Newark. The DEP issued a letter of concurrence to EPA last week, calling for the engineered, bank-to-bank capping of the lower 8.3 miles of the river, and the dredging of approximately 3.5 million cubic yards of material to prevent flooding and enable future navigational use of the lower 1.7 miles of the river.

Additionally, none of the dredged material will be disposed in local landfills or in Newark Bay. The material will be taken to out-of-state treatment facilities or landfills. The Christie Administration's position has been that off-site disposal is the only viable option, so that the dredged, contaminated sediment is permanently removed from the community and properly secured in an appropriate facility.

"The remediation of the Passaic River has been a priority for the Christie Administration and the Record of Decision for this clean-up plan is the culmination of decades of studies and analyses and efforts, with cooperative

efforts from multiple interests mutually working toward the common goal of restoring the river. EPA Region 2 has been a tremendous partner in this effort,” Commissioner Martin said.

“This workable, realistic remedy will reduce the ongoing threat to public health and the environment and, ultimately, will result in our goal of spurring economic growth along the Passaic River and throughout Northern New Jersey.”

“The Passaic River has been seriously damaged by years of pollution,” added EPA Administrator Enck. “Extraordinarily high concentrations of dioxin, PCBs, heavy metals and pesticides have robbed the people of New Jersey from being able to use this natural resource. EPA’s cleanup plan will improve water quality, protect public health, revitalize waterfront areas and create hundreds of new jobs. This plan is one of the most comprehensive in the nation and will help restore a badly damaged river.”

The EPA’s announcement of the proposed remedy in April, 2014 came after years of study by EPA and its contractors, as well as detailed peer review by the EPA’s Contaminated Sediments Technical Advisory Group and its National Remedy Review Board, plus an independent team of modeling experts.

The final Record of Decision was reached after EPA’s public comment process, which included public hearings on the proposed remedy. Throughout the process, which included the development of a Focused Feasibility Study for the lower eight miles of the Passaic River, DEP worked closely with EPA to advance the project.

With the Record of Decision finalized, EPA will next seek funding for the implementation of the preferred remedy from the companies it deems responsible for the contamination.

New Jersey’s selected cleanup remedy is based on the belief that the remedial action for the Passaic River must:

- Remove and cap contaminated sediment to reduce the ongoing threat to human health and the environment;
- Stop the uncontrolled release and movement of contaminated sediments into Newark Bay and other parts of the estuary;
- Be consistent with reasonable long-term future uses of the Passaic River and adjacent areas, particularly its use as a navigable waterway;
- Remove and treat contaminated sediments consistent with the state’s preference for out-of-state disposal to permanently and significantly reduce volume, toxicity and mobility of hazardous substances;
- Provide for management of the waste in a manner that will not add further burden to the surrounding communities’ existing environmental issues.

The Passaic River was vital to America’s industrial engine for more than 100 years, helping to bring thousands of jobs and economic prosperity to northern New Jersey and an emerging nation. Running through one of the most densely

populated areas of the state, it also served as an important natural and recreational resource.

Due to its industrial past, Passaic River sediments contain many contaminants of concern, in particular dioxins associated with the production of Agent Orange at the former Diamond Alkali site in Newark. The lower Passaic River is considered one of the most contaminated rivers in the nation.

EPA previously has conducted two “hot spot” sediment removal efforts on the lower Passaic River. In 2012, it targeted removal of 40,000 cubic yards of dioxin-contaminated sediments adjacent to the Diamond Alkali Superfund site in the Ironbound section of Newark. In 2013, EPA required that responsible parties dredge the top 2 feet of dioxin-contaminated sediments in a half-mile of mudflats along the Passaic River in Lyndhurst and cap the remaining contamination.

To view the details of EPA’s final remedy, and to view technical information regarding the need for the cleanup and different alternatives evaluated, visit: <https://semsub.epa.gov/src/collection/02/AR63167>

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On Mar 4, 2016, at 5:47 PM, debbie@nynjbaykeeper.org wrote:

* did not state he opposed it

Sent from my iPhone

On Mar 4, 2016, at 4:28 PM, Debbie Mans
<debbie@nynjbaykeeper.org> wrote:

Just to clarify, Senator Booker was there to support the final remedy selection and did state that he opposed it.

Debbie Mans, Executive Director & Baykeeper
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debbie@nynjbaykeeper.org
www.nynjbaykeeper.org

Join team that is protecting, preserving, and restoring the Hudson-Raritan Estuary [by clicking here](#)

On Fri, Mar 4, 2016 at 12:55 PM, DAVID YENNOR <dyennior@gmail.com> wrote:

Well, sure enough, the Community Advisory Group (CAG) is the last to know the EPA decision. There's even a colored pamphlet explaining the decision: "The entire lower eight miles of the river will be capped bank-to-bank." The planning will continue for 3-4 years before the work will begin. The project will take 6 years to complete.

There's no example given of a tidal river that has been capped bank to bank. From 1.7 mile to 8.3 mile they will dredge about 2.5 feet, yet the polluted sediment is contaminated to depths of 12-20 feet. The river has not been dredged for fifty years to maintain the original depth of the river. Capping is not a cleanup, nor is it a restoration.

Capping will mean low speed travel by boats. Large boats will be restricted to the first 2 miles. No anchors can be dropped for fear of damaging the fragile cap. No building of new bulkheads will be permitted for fear of disturbing the cap.

This decision is being done because it's the cheapest way out. The EPA plan is less than a half measure. The bulk of the toxins will remain in the river bottom. Polluters are not being held fully responsible.

This decision goes against the recommendation of the Sierra Club of a full restoration and total removal of toxins.

Sen Cory Booker, the former Newark Mayor, agrees that this is not enough. "This is a crime scene". "The theft of a river."

David Yennior
Passaic River Issues
NJ Sierra

On Mar 3, 2016, at 12:11 PM, Doug Sarno
<doug@forumfg.com> wrote:

Hi CAG members and other
interested folks, please see below
an announcement from EPA about
a major announcement tomorrow
morning in Newark.
thanks
Doug

Doug Sarno
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On Friday,
March 4,
U.S.
Environmental
Protection
Agency
(EPA)
Regional
Administrator
or Judith
A. Enck
will be
joined by
federal, state
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to
make a
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Passaic
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What:

Passaic
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